

THE TOMB IS EMPTY!

Jesus was crucified on a Friday. When he had died, his body needed to be buried. Joseph of Arimathea asked if he could bury Jesus. Pontius Pilate said, "Yes." Joseph brought a cloth to carry Jesus. It is called a shroud. He took Jesus to a rocky hillside and put his body in a cave in the rocks. Then he rolled a big rock to close the cave. Mary Magdalene watched.

Later, Mary Magdalene and two other women came to the tomb with spices to anoint the body of Jesus. They came as the sun was rising. They wondered how they would get in the tomb, since the big rock was very heavy to move. When they got to the tomb, they said, "Look, the rock is gone, we can go in!"

Inside, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe. They were amazed. He said, "Don't be amazed. You want to see Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen! Go and tell his disciples and Peter to meet him in Galilee."

They fled from the tomb, they were shaking, and so amazed. They didn't say anything to anyone, because they were afraid.

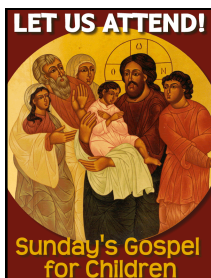
THE MYRRHBEARERS



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Joseph asked to take Jesus' body from the cross to bury it. Where did he go with the body?
2. What did he use to close the opening of the cave?
3. How many women came to anoint the body? What did they bring?
4. Why were they surprised when they came near the cave?
5. Was Jesus in the cave?
6. Their friend, Jesus, had just been crucified. Now he is not in the tomb. What would you feel if you were one of the women?



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Pre-12



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After our Lord Jesus Christ died, a brave man named Joseph went to Pilate to ask for Jesus' body. When Pilate was sure that Jesus was dead, he said Joseph could have the body.

Joseph wrapped Jesus' body with a linen cloth and laid it in a tomb. The tomb was carved out of rock. A big stone was rolled against the door of the tomb.

The next day was the Sabbath, the Jewish day of rest. On the day after the Sabbath, Mary Mag'dalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices to put on Jesus' body. Very early in the morning, as the sun was coming up, they walked to the tomb to put the spices on Jesus' body. All the way, they talked about how they were going to get the stone away from the tomb so they could get inside.

When the women got to the tomb, there was a big surprise waiting for them—the big stone was rolled away from the tomb's door! When they stepped inside, there was another surprise. A young man in white was sitting there. He had a message for them, "Don't be surprised. You are looking for Jesus. He is not here because He has risen from the dead! See where His body had been? It is empty! Now, go tell the disciples and Peter to go to Galilee, where you will see Him!"

Quickly, the women ran out of there. They were shaking and amazed! They couldn't even speak, because they were so surprised. Jesus had come back to life again!

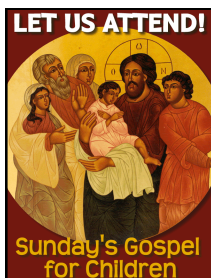
·THE MYRRH-BEARERS·



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who did Pilate give Jesus' body to? What did he do with it?
2. When did the women go to the tomb? Why were they going?
3. What problem did the women know they would have when they got to the tomb?
4. What did they find at the tomb?
5. What great news did the young man in the tomb tell the women?
6. How did the women feel when they left the tomb? Would you have felt the same way?



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At that time, Joseph of Arimathe'a, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Mag'dalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Mag'dalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salo'me, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb at the rising of the sun. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back-- it was very large.

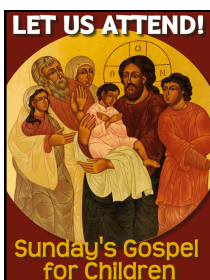
And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out quickly and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who asked Pilate for Jesus' body? What did he do with it?
2. When did the women go to the tomb? Why did they go?
3. What were the women worried and talking about? Was it actually a problem for them? Why or why not?
4. Who did they meet up with? What news did he have?
5. What different emotions must the women have felt during this day?
6. If you could be someone in this Gospel, who would you want to be? Why?



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Characters: Narrator, Women, Young Man

Narrator: At that time, Joseph of Arimathe'a, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

Mary Mag'dalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Mag'dalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salo'me, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb at the rising of the sun. And they were saying to one another,

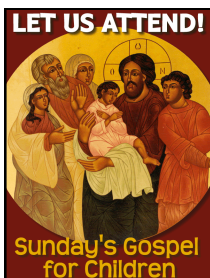
Women: Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?

Narrator: And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back-- it was very large.

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them,

Young Man: Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.

Narrator: And they went out quickly and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



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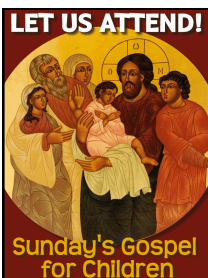
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does this gospel tell us about Joseph? Where is he from? What is he a member of? What is he waiting for?
2. How does this gospel say he went before Pilate? What does he ask for?
3. Why would these details be important? What do they tell us about who Joseph is?
4. How does Joseph care for the body? What do these details tell us about Joseph?
5. We call the church the body of Christ. What do you think that means?
6. What might someone do to care for the body of Christ, the church, today the way Joseph cared for the body of Christ? Do you think caring for the church requires boldness like Joseph's boldness? Why or why not?



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And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you

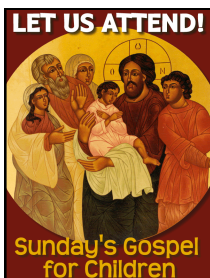


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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does Pilate ask the centurion when Joseph asks for Jesus' body?
2. What does he learn?
3. Why do you think this gospel tells us this? Why is it important to know that Jesus was dead before Joseph was given his body?
4. What does this gospel tell us about what Joseph did with his body?
5. Why are these details important?
6. What do all of these little details in this gospel tell us about Jesus' death? Why would it be important to know that he really did die?
7. Do you think knowing all these details is important? Why or why not?
8. Do you think it is important that Jesus really did die? Why or why not?



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